

## Guidelines for Laptop Purchases

We are excited you will be joining our Bring Your Own Mac (Laptop) program next year. Please read the following information to ensure your child is ready to participate in this essential and required program for learning at ACS. Technology is as important to a student's work as it is to our own as adults. A hallmark of a contemporary learning environment, this program promotes innovation and differentiation in the classroom, and helps students become more independent learners.

### What is BYOM?

BYOM stands for Bring Your Own Mac, although at ACS **that device must be a laptop**. Based on our experience with this program, we believe the laptop rather than a tablet is the type of device most appropriate for students' developmental needs at this age. Laptops also support a wider range of applications students may need from our core Google Workspace platform to the Adobe Creative Suite to specialized software for STEM courses.

### Who will purchase the laptop?

Laptops must be purchased by families for students who are in Grades 4 through 12. Each student in the BYOM program should have his/her own device and should not plan to share with siblings.

### Who is responsible for the maintenance and updates of these devices?

All maintenance for the hardware device, operating system, software and/or apps purchased by the family, operating system updates and regular backups are family responsibilities. There are local vendors that can provide technical support for a fee. Families should check to see what warranties or accidental damage coverage is available in Abu Dhabi when they purchase the machine.

### Specifications for an Approved Apple MacBook Student Laptop:

The **ideal** Apple MacBook computing device for school use:

- Is lightweight but sturdy;
- Has 8 hours of battery power or more; ideally students will not need to bring chargers (which are easy to lose and expensive to replace) to school if they manage battery life and have a device that no more than 4 years old\*)
- Has a protective cover and case

*\*Devices more than 4 years old may have trouble supporting operating system upgrades and the latest software*

| Component        | Specifications                                          |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Platform         | Mac (all teachers use MacBook Airs)                     |
| Screen Size      | 13 inches or more                                       |
| Processor        | Intel i5 or Higher (including new M1 chip)              |
| RAM              | 8 GB or Higher                                          |
| Hard Drive       | 256 GB or Higher                                        |
| Operating System | Mac OS 12.0.1 or Higher (Monterey) Must support English |
| Wireless         | 802.11n or 802.11ac (5 GHz band capable)                |
| Age              | No more than 4 years old                                |

If you have questions about whether a specific computer will meet the requirements, please feel free to contact Christina Devitt, Director of Learning Innovation and eLearning, [christinadevitt@acs.sch.ae](mailto:christinadevitt@acs.sch.ae).